



LOUISIANA



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

Gayle F. Truly, Secretary

APRIL, 1987

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LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

	PRELIMINARY APRIL 1987				REVISED MARCH 1987				REVISED APRIL 1986			
(in thousands)	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1922.3	1692.3	230.0	12.0	1938.4	1675.8	262.6	13.5	1989.8	1736.7	253.1	12.7
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	60.4	54.5	5.9	9.8	60.7	54.0	6.7	11.0	60.0	53.9	6.1	10.2
Baton Rouge 2/	259.1	234.6	24.5	9.5	260.9	232.9	28.0	10.7	263.1	234.9	28.2	10.7
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	73.0	60.2	12.8	17.5	74.2	59.4	14.8	20.0	77.4	65.0	12.4	16.1
Lafayette 4/	100.2	87.0	13.2	13.2	101.1	86.0	15.1	14.9	109.4	95.4	14.0	12.8
Lake Charles 5/	74.1	64.7	9.4	12.7	73.8	63.8	10.0	13.5	76.1	65.1	11.0	14.5
Monroe 6/	68.4	61.7	6.7	9.8	68.5	60.9	7.6	11.2	69.7	62.9	6.8	9.7
New Orleans 7/	587.6	529.6	58.0	9.9	590.4	526.2	64.2	10.9	609.3	545.3	64.0	10.5
Shreveport 8/	161.3	143.4	17.9	11.1	164.3	142.9	21.4	13.0	168.8	149.2	19.6	11.6

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the state during April amounted to 1,489,600, an increase of 1,900 workers from the March level and 44,200 below the comparable period a year ago. Most of the increase in nonmanufacturing payrolls for the current month was centered in the transportation and public utilities and trade segments. Manufacturing employment was also up for the current month as both the durable and nondurable goods segments experienced increases.

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Employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, estimated at 165,500 for April, was 1,100 higher than the March revised figure but 500 lower than the April 1986 figure. Lumber and wood products employment was up for the current month due largely to increased activity in logging camps and logging contractors. More demand for concrete, gypsum, and plaster products largely accounted for the increase in stone, clay, and glass products. An increase in the transportation equipment industry was centered mainly in the ship and boat building and repairing segment.

Total nondurable goods employment for April was estimated at 91,800, an increase of 100 from the March revised figure and 600 lower than April a year ago. Apparel and other textile products, paper and allied products, and chemical and allied products employment each increased by 100, while food and kindred products and other nondurable goods employment both fell by 100 for the current month.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during April was estimated at 1,324,100, an increase of 800 from the March revised figure of 1,323,300. A decrease in the production of crude petroleum and natural gas was responsible for the lower employment level in mining this month. An increase in activity for general building contractors and in certain special trade segments accounted for the increase in construction employment. Transportation and public utilities employment was higher as a result of an increase in transportation, excluding railroads, payrolls. Trade employment moved up due mostly to more business in the general merchandise, apparel and accessory stores segments of retail trade. Banking was among the many segments of finance, insurance and real estate that lost employment in April. Total services employment held steady for April. Government payrolls were down in April due to decreases in the state government, except education, segment.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 119,200 production workers in manufacturing decreased from \$456.60 in March to \$449.45 in April, a decrease of \$7.15 but an increase \$14.85 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings was one cent higher in April than last month and \$0.23 more than April of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.5 for the current month, a decrease of 0.7 hours from last month's average of 42.2 hours.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for April amounted to 230,000, a decrease of 32,600 from the March level of 262,600. The unemployment rate for April was 12.0 percent compared to 13.5 percent for March and 12.7 percent for April a year ago. The comparable national unemployment rate for April was 6.2 percent compared to 6.9 percent in March and 7.0 percent in April 1986. The state's civilian labor force moved from 1,938,400 in March to 1,922,300 in April, a decrease of 16,100. Total employment for Louisiana moved from 1,675,800 in March to 1,692,300 in April, an increase of 16,500 for the month.

The unemployment rate may fall slightly during the next month. The construction industry may benefit from better weather conditions. Manufacturing could also increase during the next few months.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change from	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,489.6	1,487.7	1,533.8	+ 1.9	-44.2
MINING	58.1	58.2	65.0	- 0.1	- 6.9
Oil and Gas Extraction	55.4	55.5	62.0	- 0.1	- 6.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	3.0	0	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	83.6	83.5	92.0	+ 0.1	- 8.4
MANUFACTURING	165.5	164.4	166.0	+ 1.1	- 0.5
Durable Goods	73.7	72.7	73.6	+ 1.0	+ 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	12.0	11.8	12.5	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Furniture and Fixtures	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	6.0	5.8	6.4	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Primary Metal Industries	3.0	3.1	2.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	12.0	11.9	12.8	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Machinery, Except Electrical	8.5	8.4	8.9	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.5	7.5	7.8	0	- 0.3
Transportation Equipment	21.6	21.1	19.6	+ 0.5	+ 2.0
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.3	2.3	2.0	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	91.8	91.7	92.4	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Food & Kindred Products	19.9	20.0	20.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.1	8.0	7.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Paper & Allied Products	11.8	11.7	11.8	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	9.7	9.7	10.1	0	- 0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	25.2	25.1	26.1	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.6	12.6	12.4	0	+ 0.2
Petroleum Refining	11.7	11.7	11.5	0	+ 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.5	4.6	4.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	105.4	104.9	108.1	+ 0.5	- 2.7
Railroad Transportation	5.4	5.4	5.8	0	- 0.4
Transportation, ex. Railroads	58.8	58.4	61.3	+ 0.4	- 2.5
Water Transportation	23.3	23.1	25.2	+ 0.2	- 1.9
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	41.2	41.1	41.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.5	18.5	19.1	0	- 0.6
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	22.7	22.6	21.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	355.1	354.4	370.8	+ 0.7	-15.7
Wholesale Trade	79.9	80.0	86.7	- 0.1	- 6.8
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	43.9	43.9	50.1	0	- 6.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	36.0	36.1	36.6	- 0.1	- 0.6
Retail Trade	275.2	274.4	284.1	+ 0.8	- 8.9
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	57.3	56.3	58.3	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Food Stores	56.7	56.5	55.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	29.2	29.1	31.6	+ 0.1	- 2.4
Eating & Drinking Places	80.9	80.8	85.6	+ 0.1	- 4.7
Other Retail Trade	51.1	51.7	53.5	- 0.6	- 2.4

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change from	
				March 1987	April 1986
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	85.0	85.3	85.6	- 0.3	- 0.6
Banking	25.8	25.9	27.0	- 0.1	- 1.2
SERVICES	317.1	317.1	319.6	0	- 2.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	23.7	23.5	23.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Personal Services	14.9	14.9	15.0	0	- 0.1
Business Services	54.1	54.8	56.6	- 0.7	- 2.5
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.6	9.4	9.8	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	0
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.2	8.5	9.1	- 0.3	- 0.9
Health Services	96.8	96.7	95.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.7
Legal Services	14.6	14.7	14.0	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Educational Services	21.6	21.5	22.5	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Social Services	18.9	18.8	19.2	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Membership Organizations	25.5	25.4	25.8	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Miscellaneous Services	16.5	16.3	16.9	+ 0.2	- 0.4
GOVERNMENT	319.8	319.9	326.7	- 0.1	- 6.9
Federal	36.3	36.3	35.8	0	+ 0.5
State and Local	283.5	283.6	290.9	- 0.1	- 7.4
State	101.1	101.2	105.2	- 0.1	- 4.1
Local	182.4	182.4	185.7	0	- 3.3

* Preliminary

**Revised

(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries

(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)									
Durable Goods	\$449.45	\$456.60	\$434.60	41.5	42.2	41.0	\$10.83	\$10.82	\$10.60
Lumber & Wood Products	393.16	400.73	389.64	40.7	41.1	40.8	9.66	9.75	9.55
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	347.76	347.33	338.40	42.0	43.2	42.3	8.28	8.04	8.00
Fabricated Metal Products	359.91	370.51	353.50	43.0	39.5	40.4	8.37	9.38	8.75
Machinery, ex. Electrical	446.02	430.91	390.83	46.9	44.7	40.5	9.51	9.64	9.65
Electric & Electronic Equip.	398.04	409.40	394.28	42.3	43.6	41.2	9.41	9.39	9.57
Transportation Equipment	408.86	466.12	480.90	34.3	37.2	41.6	11.92	12.53	11.56
	412.30	416.19	429.76	38.0	38.5	39.5	10.85	10.81	10.88
Nondurable Goods									
Food & Kindred Products	500.49	505.87	475.78	42.2	43.2	41.3	11.86	11.71	11.52
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	304.13	314.01	306.12	38.4	39.3	38.7	7.92	7.99	7.91
Paper & Allied Products	192.70	211.60	182.58	35.1	39.7	34.0	5.49	5.33	5.37
Printing & Publishing	566.49	551.88	574.20	41.9	42.0	44.0	13.52	13.14	13.05
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	394.21	402.78	379.71	38.8	39.8	37.3	10.16	10.12	10.18
Petroleum & Coal Products	713.17	704.09	648.56	46.4	46.2	44.0	15.37	15.24	14.74
Petroleum Refining	690.58	729.14	667.83	47.3	49.2	45.4	14.60	14.82	14.71
	704.96	745.00	679.88	47.6	49.7	46.0	14.81	14.99	14.78
MINING									
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	591.20	596.09	530.46	48.9	48.7	45.3	12.09	12.24	11.71
BANKING	499.99	510.40	512.89	39.4	40.0	40.9	12.69	12.76	12.54
	256.99	254.54	269.58	38.3	39.1	38.9	6.71	6.51	6.93

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 119,200 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 90,500 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

PRELIMINARY 04 87

REVISED 03 87

	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	23,350	19,700	3,650	15.6	23,725	19,300	4,425	18.6
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,375	8,075	1,300	13.8	9,350	7,875	1,475	15.7
NAPOLÉONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	7,225	5,350	1,875	25.9	7,700	5,325	2,375	30.9
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	16,325	13,250	3,075	18.8	16,625	13,050	3,575	21.6
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,625	12,075	1,550	11.4	13,725	11,925	1,800	13.1
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,675	5,750	925	13.9	6,675	5,675	1,000	14.9
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,500	3,775	725	16.0	4,550	3,700	850	18.5
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,500	4,000	500	11.2	4,350	3,750	600	14.0
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,700	3,725	975	20.8	4,950	3,675	1,275	25.8
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,625	6,750	875	11.3	7,550	6,600	950	12.5
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,150	8,475	1,675	16.4	10,375	8,275	2,100	20.4
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	12,875	11,225	1,650	12.9	13,125	11,075	2,050	15.6
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,425	3,425	1,000	22.7	4,425	3,275	1,150	25.7
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,550	7,600	950	11.0	8,625	7,550	1,075	12.5
VILLE PLATTE (EVANGELINE)	13,650	11,475	2,175	15.9	13,725	11,225	2,500	18.3
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,500	7,000	1,500	17.6	8,625	6,725	1,900	22.0
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,550	5,625	925	14.0	6,700	5,600	1,100	16.4
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	27,650	22,350	5,300	19.2	28,825	22,550	6,275	21.8
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	12,050	10,150	1,900	15.8	12,225	10,025	2,200	17.9
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,175	6,500	675	9.4	7,125	6,400	725	10.2
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,950	10,975	1,975	15.2	12,975	10,750	2,225	17.1
JENA (LASALLE)	6,650	5,775	875	13.1	6,675	5,675	1,000	15.1
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,025	17,075	950	5.2	17,875	16,750	1,125	6.4
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,875	4,925	950	16.3	5,950	4,825	1,125	18.8
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,225	10,425	1,800	14.7	12,375	10,175	2,200	17.9
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,300	15,325	1,975	11.4	17,400	15,200	2,200	12.7
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUEMINE)	9,575	8,200	1,375	14.3	9,575	8,150	1,425	15.0
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,775	6,425	1,350	17.4	8,000	6,400	1,600	20.0
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,825	3,850	975	20.4	4,300	3,725	575	13.6
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,625	7,275	1,350	15.7	8,750	7,100	1,650	19.0
MANY (SABINE)	9,875	8,825	1,050	10.8	9,975	8,700	1,275	12.9
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,975	2,550	425	14.3	2,975	2,475	500	16.8
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,375	7,050	1,325	15.8	8,600	7,000	1,600	18.5
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	34,400	28,100	6,300	18.3	35,050	27,800	7,250	20.7
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	26,450	20,450	6,000	22.7	27,150	20,225	6,925	25.6
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	39,200	33,900	5,300	13.5	39,350	33,475	5,875	14.9
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,425	3,025	400	11.7	3,500	2,925	575	16.5
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,300	7,175	1,125	13.4	8,325	7,025	1,300	15.6
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	21,100	17,075	4,025	19.1	21,225	16,525	4,700	22.2
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,775	17,225	1,550	8.3	18,700	16,925	1,775	9.5
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	18,275	15,950	2,325	12.7	18,425	15,875	2,550	13.8
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	18,950	16,250	2,700	14.2	19,200	16,100	3,100	16.2
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,925	3,675	1,250	25.4	5,275	3,700	1,575	29.8
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,175	3,750	425	10.3	4,175	3,650	525	12.4
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,700	5,075	625	10.8	5,725	4,975	750	12.9

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.6	45.6	45.3	0	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.4	3.3	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.7	10.7	10.5	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	8.6	8.6	8.3	0	+ 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dtrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	11.1	11.1	10.9	0	+ 0.2
Health Services	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.7	12.9	0	- 0.2
Federal	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.0	10.0	10.3	0	- 0.3
State	4.8	4.8	5.2	0	- 0.4
Local	5.2	5.2	5.1	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 45,600 during April. This estimate was unchanged since the previous month and 300 more than April of last year.

Estimated employment in manufacturing during April totaled 3,400. This is unchanged since last month and 100 more than April of last year. The increase since last year was in other durable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 42,200 during April. This estimate was unchanged since last month and 200 more than April of last year. Compared to last April, gains were in retail trade, services, and federal government. Reductions were in wholesale trade and state government. During the next thirty days the total number of employed should increase slightly, with the number of unemployed showing a slight decline.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	213.1	213.0	213.9	+ 0.1	- 0.8
MANUFACTURING	18.7	18.7	19.1	0	- 0.4
Durable Goods	4.0	4.0	4.0	0	0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	14.7	14.7	15.1	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.3	10.3	10.7	0	- 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
MINING	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	19.8	20.2	19.7	- 0.4	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	10.5	10.5	10.3	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	52.2	51.9	51.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	11.1	11.1	11.2	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.3	7.3	7.8	0	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.8	3.4	0	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	41.1	40.8	40.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.3	13.3	13.7	0	- 0.4
Banking	3.9	3.9	4.4	0	- 0.5
SERVICES	42.0	41.7	41.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	55.6	55.7	56.8	- 0.1	- 1.2
Federal	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
State and Local	53.4	53.5	54.6	- 0.1	- 1.2
State	32.2	32.2	33.0	0	- 0.8
Local	21.2	21.3	21.6	- 0.1	- 0.4

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	\$527.39	\$517.50	\$510.43	42.6	41.6	41.6	\$12.38	\$12.44	\$12.27
Petro-Chemicals	683.28	693.03	687.09	46.8	46.7	46.9	14.60	14.84	14.65

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,200 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 213,100 during April was up 100 from the revised March estimate. Manufacturing showed no change while nonmanufacturing was up 100.

Employment in manufacturing, at 18,700 in April, showed no change during the current period. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing is down 400.

Nonmanufacturing employment was up during the current period. Mining showed no change. Construction was down due to less business in general building contractors - nonresidential buildings and in miscellaneous special trade contractors. Transportation and public utilities showed no change. Wholesale trade was unchanged while retail trade was up due to more business in department stores, grocery stores, and in motor vehicle dealers (new and used). Finance, insurance, and real estate showed no change. Services rose due to more business in hotels, motels, and tourist courts, in hospitals, and in outpatient care facilities. Federal government was unchanged during the current period. State government was at the same level as last month; however, there was a considerable drop from last year's total. Local government was down during the current period.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,200 production workers in all manufacturing was \$527.39, up \$9.89 from the revised March average. Average weekly hours were up by 1.0 hours and average hourly earnings decreased six cents. More overtime by lower paid employees contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 234,600 during April, up 1,700 from March's revised total. Unemployment, at 24,500, was down 3,500 during the current period. April's unemployment rate, at 9.5 percent, was down from last month's revised 10.7 percent. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 259,100 during the current period.

Students seeking summer work are expected to cause an increase in unemployment during the coming months.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,621 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 297 applicants in jobs during March.

The consumer price index for March, 1987 for all urban consumers was 335.9 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 330.5 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	51.7	51.4	56.2	+ 0.3	- 4.5
MANUFACTURING	4.2	4.2	4.8	0	- 0.6
Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	3.4	0	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
MINING	5.9	5.8	6.8	+ 0.1	- 0.9
CONSTRUCTION	1.4	1.4	2.0	0	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.8	5.7	6.2	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Water Transportation	3.6	3.5	3.6	+ 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.2	13.2	14.0	0	- 0.8
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	3.1	0	- 0.5
Retail Trade	10.6	10.6	10.9	0	- 0.3
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.3	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.4	2.4	2.6	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	8.2	8.1	8.6	+ 0.1	- 0.4
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.6	11.2	0	- 0.6
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	10.1	10.1	10.7	0	- 0.6
State	3.2	3.1	3.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	6.9	7.0	7.7	- 0.1	- 0.8

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in April edged up to 51,700, a level 300 above March. Since April of 1986, total employment lost 4,500 workers, a reduction of 8.0 percent. Total nonagricultural employment remains at the lowest level since February of 1977.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,200 in April, registering no change over the previous month. Durable goods and nondurable goods were unchanged over the previous month. Compared to one year ago manufacturing employment is down 600.

Mining showed a gain in oil and gas field services. Water transportation added workers. Services exhibited a small increase spread through several industries. Changes in government were minor. Construction held steady. Trade displayed no overall change in either the wholesale or retail sectors. Finance, insurance, and real estate remained at the same level.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is predicted to show a small seasonal gain. Construction and mining will benefit from better weather conditions. Unemployment will probably move up with the summer increase in the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor force.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA (CONTINUED)
EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Estimated unemployment in April moved down to 12,800, a level 2,000 below March. A decrease in the size of the labor force was mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 17.5 percent of the labor force compared to 20.0 percent in March and 16.1 percent in April of last year. The April rate was higher than the state rate of 12.0 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 3,361.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is predicted to show a small seasonal gain. Construction and mining will benefit from better weather conditions. Unemployment will probably move up with the summer increase in the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor force.

LAFAYETTE ARFA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	82.6	82.3	90.6	+ 0.3	- 8.0
MANUFACTURING	5.7	5.7	6.0	0	- 0.3
Durable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.8	0	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	4.4	4.4	4.2	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.7	1.7	1.4	0	+ 0.3
MINING	11.1	11.0	12.5	+ 0.1	- 1.4
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	3.0	3.8	0	- 0.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.5	6.4	7.1	+ 0.1	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	21.7	21.7	24.3	0	- 2.6
Wholesale Trade	4.8	4.8	5.7	0	- 0.9
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	3.7	0	- 0.8
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	16.9	16.9	18.6	0	- 1.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.9	2.9	3.1	0	- 0.2
Food Stores	2.8	2.8	3.2	0	- 0.4
Auto. Dirs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5	1.5	1.7	0	- 0.2
Other Retail Trade	9.7	9.7	10.6	0	- 0.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.0	4.2	0	- 0.2
Banking	1.4	1.4	1.6	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	17.6	17.5	19.1	+ 0.1	- 1.5
GOVERNMENT	13.0	13.0	13.6	0	- 0.6
Federal	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
State and Local	12.2	12.2	12.6	0	- 0.4
State	5.2	5.2	5.1	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.0	7.0	7.5	0	- 0.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette area for the month of April 1987 stood at 82,600, an increase of 300 from the previous month, but 8,000 less than the same period a year ago.

Mining showed an increase of 100 from March 1987, but there was still a loss of 1,400 from this time last year. Transportation showed an increase of 100 from last month, and a decrease of 600 from April 1986. Trade showed no change from last month and a decrease of 2,600 from April 1986. Services showed an increase of 100 from March 1987, but a decrease of 1,500 from April of last year.

Total employment for the next thirty days should improve with the stability in oil prices and the improvement in the weather, but unemployment will remain high as students begin to enter the labor force.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	57.5	57.1	58.1	+ 0.4	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	10.0	9.8	8.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Durable Goods	1.9	1.7	0.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.5	0.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Nondurable Goods	8.1	8.1	8.1	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	5.1	4.8	5.6	+ 0.3	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	3.5	3.6	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.7	13.7	13.8	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.8	10.8	11.0	0	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.4	2.4	2.2	0	+ 0.2
Auto Dtrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.9	2.9	3.1	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	10.7	10.7	11.2	0	- 0.5
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	10.5	10.5	10.9	0	- 0.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
State and Local	9.9	9.9	10.2	0	- 0.3
State	3.6	3.6	3.7	0	- 0.1
Local	6.3	6.3	6.5	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles area was estimated at 57,500 for the month of April 1987. This is an increase of 400 from the previous month, but still 600 below April 1986.

Manufacturing showed a gain of 200 from the previous month, in the other durable goods sector. Compared to April 1986, there has been an increase of 1,300 in the manufacturing sector.

Mining showed no change from last month but there was a decrease of 100 from this time last year. Construction employment figures showed an increase of 300 over March; however, there was a decrease of 500 from last year's April estimate.

Total employment for Lake Charles for the next month should increase somewhat, with unemployment remaining the same.

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MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	54.8	54.2	55.5	+ 0.6	- 0.7
MANUFACTURING	7.3	7.2	7.3	+ 0.1	0
Durable Goods	2.4	2.3	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.2	2.1	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	4.9	4.9	5.1	0	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	- 0.2
MINING	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	2.8	3.3	+ 0.2	- 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.6	2.9	+ 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.6	14.6	15.1	0	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.9	10.9	11.3	0	- 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.8	2.7	3.3	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.3	1.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.3	3.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICES	11.4	11.2	11.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Health Services	4.6	4.6	4.4	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	10.7	10.7	10.8	0	- 0.1
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.1	10.1	10.2	0	- 0.1
State	4.7	4.7	4.5	0	+ 0.2
Local	5.4	5.4	5.7	0	- 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment was estimated at 54,800 during mid-April. This was an increase of 600 from the March estimate of 54,200.

Manufacturing rose by 100 to an estimated 7,300. The minimal gain was in durable goods.

Construction gained 200 workers as weather conditions improved. Services was also up by 200. Transportation and public utilities was up 100. All other segments were unchanged.

Over the next 30 days employment should rise slightly as weather conditions improve for outdoor employment. Unemployment will remain high.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	509.0	509.3	524.3	- 0.3	-15.3
MANUFACTURING	42.8	42.7	43.4	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Durable Goods	20.8	20.6	21.2	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.4	1.4	1.6	0	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.4	2.4	2.6	0	- 0.2
Machinery	2.5	2.5	2.6	0	- 0.1
Transportation Equipment	12.3	12.1	12.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.0	7.8	7.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	22.0	22.1	22.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	6.8	6.8	6.5	0	+ 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	0.9	1.0	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	3.6	3.6	3.6	0	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	3.8	3.8	4.2	0	- 0.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	16.8	16.5	17.4	+ 0.3	- 0.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	15.9	15.6	16.5	+ 0.3	- 0.6
CONSTRUCTION	22.7	22.9	26.2	- 0.2	- 3.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	41.7	41.8	43.8	- 0.1	- 2.1
Railroad Transportation	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	-0.1
Water Transportation	11.3	11.2	12.8	+ 0.1	-1.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	132.3	132.5	138.0	- 0.2	- 5.7
Wholesale Trade	31.5	31.6	34.0	- 0.1	- 2.5
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.5	18.5	20.4	0	- 1.9
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.0	13.1	13.6	- 0.1	- 0.6
Retail Trade	100.8	100.9	104.0	- 0.1	- 3.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	34.0	34.1	33.7	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Banking	7.3	7.3	7.2	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	133.7	133.8	133.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
GOVERNMENT	85.0	85.0	87.9	0	- 2.9
Federal	15.7	15.7	15.3	0	+ 0.4
State and Local	69.3	69.3	72.6	0	- 3.3
State	19.5	19.6	20.6	- 0.1	- 1.1
Local	49.8	49.7	52.0	+ 0.1	- 2.2

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**
All MANUFACTURING	\$435.34	\$443.87	\$425.70	40.8	41.6	39.6	\$10.67	\$10.67	\$10.75
Durable Goods	384.54	393.62	382.79	39.0	39.8	39.1	9.86	9.89	9.79
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	332.30	328.00	387.19	33.6	32.0	36.7	9.89	10.25	10.55
Fabricated Metal Products	450.55	477.52	388.68	43.7	47.8	41.0	10.31	9.99	9.48
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	362.18	371.09	367.27	37.3	38.1	37.4	9.71	9.74	9.82
Nondurable Goods	482.51	491.72	467.17	42.4	43.4	40.1	11.38	11.33	11.65
Food & Kindred Products	347.90	353.60	323.39	40.5	40.0	37.3	8.59	8.84	8.67
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	149.72	193.32	132.24	29.3	36.0	22.3	5.11	5.37	5.93
Paper & Allied Products	421.35	408.71	456.87	45.7	43.9	48.5	9.22	9.31	9.42
Printing & Publishing	363.60	381.78	372.29	40.0	42.0	38.7	9.09	9.09	9.62
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	737.86	728.21	665.38	46.7	46.8	42.9	15.80	15.56	15.51

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 28,800 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in April dropped slightly to 509,000, a level 300 below March. Small losses in most industry divisions in nonmanufacturing offset minor gains elsewhere. Over the year, nonagricultural employment lost 15,300 workers, with every industry division except finance, insurance, and real estate showing a decrease. Nonagricultural employment remains at the lowest level since February of 1979.

Manufacturing employment totaled 42,800 in April, up 100 from the previous month. In durable goods, transportation equipment went up 200 due to a increase in ship and boatbuilding and repair with an increase in hiring at two local shipyards. Nondurable goods fell 100 in the paper and allied products sector because of a layoff in the industry. Compared to one year ago manufacturing employment is down 600.

Construction showed a decrease in employment in the part of the year when seasonal factors usually bring a gain, reflecting the effects of a troubled local economy. Trade exhibited a downturn in both retail and wholesale sectors. Services fell slightly. Transportation displayed an overall downturn. Real estate tapered off. Changes in government were minor. More favorably, mining added workers, mainly in oil and gas field services.

Production workers in the area earned an average \$435.34 a week in April, down \$8.53 from last month's average. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are up \$9.64 in manufacturing. Average weekly hours decreased 48 minutes from the previous month, but average hourly earnings were unchanged over the previous month.

Estimated unemployment in April moved down to 58,000, a level 6,200 below March. A decrease in the size of the labor force was partly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 9.9 percent of the labor force compared to 10.9 percent in March and 10.5 percent in April of last year. The April rate was somewhat lower than the state rate of 12.0 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 14,957.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to exhibit normal seasonal changes. Private and public educational services will make downward adjustments for the summer season. Mining and construction will probably add workers. Unemployment will likely move up with the summer increase in the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor force.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1987*	March 1987**	April 1986**	Net Change From	
				March 1987	April 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	130.0	130.1	135.6	- 0.1	- 5.6
MANUFACTURING	18.7	18.6	19.2	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Durable Goods	13.3	13.3	13.7	0	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	7.8	7.8	8.3	0	- 0.5
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	- 0.2
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.2	6.2	6.5	0	- 0.3
Other Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.8	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Good	5.4	5.3	5.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.3	2.2	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
MINING	3.1	3.1	3.9	0	- 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	7.2	7.2	7.7	0	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.2	8.3	8.5	- 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	29.5	29.5	32.2	0	- 2.7
Wholesale Trade	7.6	7.7	8.4	- 0.1	- 0.8
Retail Trade	21.9	21.8	23.8	+ 0.1	- 1.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.7	7.7	7.9	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	30.2	30.3	30.7	- 0.1	- 0.5
GOVERNMENT	25.4	25.4	25.5	0	- 0.1
Federal	4.6	4.6	4.4	0	+ 0.2
State and Local	20.8	20.8	21.1	0	- 0.3
State	6.3	6.3	6.0	0	+ 0.3
Local	14.5	14.5	15.1	0	- 0.6

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**	April '87*	March '87**	April '86**
All MANUFACTURING	\$422.91	\$452.71	\$454.21	38.1	39.4	40.7	\$11.10	\$11.49	\$11.16
Lumber and Wood Products	253.75	240.38	270.95	38.8	37.5	40.2	6.54	6.41	6.74
Metals and Machinery	423.94	492.00	434.19	36.8	41.0	41.0	11.52	12.00	10.59
Food and Kindred Products	354.34	345.68	320.95	42.9	41.9	41.9	8.26	8.25	7.66
Printing and Publishing	329.34	345.43	281.18	33.2	34.1	31.7	9.92	10.13	8.87
Petroleum and Coal Products	573.36	658.93	582.06	49.3	50.3	44.5	11.63	13.10	13.08

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,900 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The Shreveport LMA has an estimated 130,000 in nonagricultural wage and salary employment, almost unchanged from the revised March estimate of 130,100. However, the current total is 5,600 less than the April, 1986 estimate.

Manufacturing employment, estimated at 18,700, shows a slight gain from the previous month, but remains 500 below the April, 1986 total.

Nonmanufacturing employment, estimated at 111,300, fell 200 from the revised March total and remains 5,100 less than the year-ago estimate. The employment losses in total nonmanufacturing occurred in transportation and public utilities, down 100, and in the services sector, down 100.

This labor area's 13,900 production workers in manufacturing earned average weekly earnings of \$422.91, a decrease of \$29.80 from last month, and a decrease of \$31.30 from April of last year. Average weekly hours dropped to 38.1, down 1.3 hours from March and 2.6 hours lower than April, 1986. The average hourly earnings decreased to \$11.10, down 39 cents from last month and six cents less than the year-ago figure.

The civilian labor force in the Shreveport labor market area is estimated at 161,300, including 143,400 employed, and 17,900 unemployed. An unemployment rate of 11.1 percent compares to 12.0 percent for the state.

The downward trend in total nonagricultural employment is expected to end in this area. Small employment gains are expected in the construction and services sectors during the next month. Total unemployment should show a gradual decline from the present level.

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